



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

the magazine of the

broadSIDE

FALL 2010

The evolving U.S. Census illustrates social and demographic changes over time, page 2



1940 CENSUS

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the magazine of the

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FALL 2010

LIBRARIAN OF VIRGINIA

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THE INSIDE STORY

An Informed Citizenry

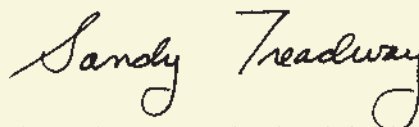
State Publications Depository Program offers public access to the workings of government

Last winter Governor Bob McDonnell announced the formation of a Commission on Government Reform and Restructuring. Soon thereafter the Library began to receive calls from citizens asking about the work of similar panels convened by previous governors. Public interest in the recommendations of earlier reform efforts prompted the Library to digitize all the reports produced by past commissions charged with reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of state government. We have made these reports accessible through the Digital Collections portal on the Library's Virginia Memory Web site. If you wish to see how state government developed during the 20th century and how officials worked to improve the management of government services and expenditures, point your browser to www.virginiamemory.com/collections/whats_new and select the link for Government Reform Commission Reports. Here you will find the reports issued by eight earlier study groups and task forces between January 1918 and December 2002. The report from Governor McDonnell's commission has been added to this online collection as well.

The Library, as the archival agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia, was able to make this information available thanks to the State Publications Depository Program. The Library started collecting state government publications early in the 19th century and in 1927 began publishing an annual list of their titles. Citizens seeking government information visited the Library to consult this material, or they used the published list to contact state agencies and order personal copies of reports, brochures, catalogs, and other publications. To expand statewide access to government documents and ensure that information published by state agencies would always remain available to the public, the General Assembly in 1981 established a formal State Publications Depository Program. Through this program, the Library collects multiple copies of every report, newsletter, statistical compilation, handbook, manual, guide, and map published by any state agency, commission, or board and distributes them to 11 designated depository libraries spread geographically across Virginia. In 2006, the General Assembly amended and updated the Depository Program legislation in §42.92-97 of the *Code of Virginia* to reflect the realities of collecting, maintaining, and preserving government information in electronic as well as print format.

An informed citizenry is vital to the proper functioning of a free society. To be informed, citizens must have access to information about their government and information developed at public expense. The Library is proud to do its part in keeping self-government strong in Virginia through its administration of the State Publications Depository Program. To learn more about the program, see www.lva.virginia.gov/agencies/StateDocs/. Only a well-informed people, Virginia's James Madison reminded the nation in his State of the Union message precisely two centuries ago, "can be permanently a free people."

Sincerely,



Sandra G. Treadway, Librarian of Virginia



ON THE COVER

Uncle Sam fills out his 1940 form in this U.S. Census Bureau poster from Special Collections.

NEW &
NOTEWORTHY

The Art of Travel

Poster acquisition highlights importance of publicity in shaping our sense of place

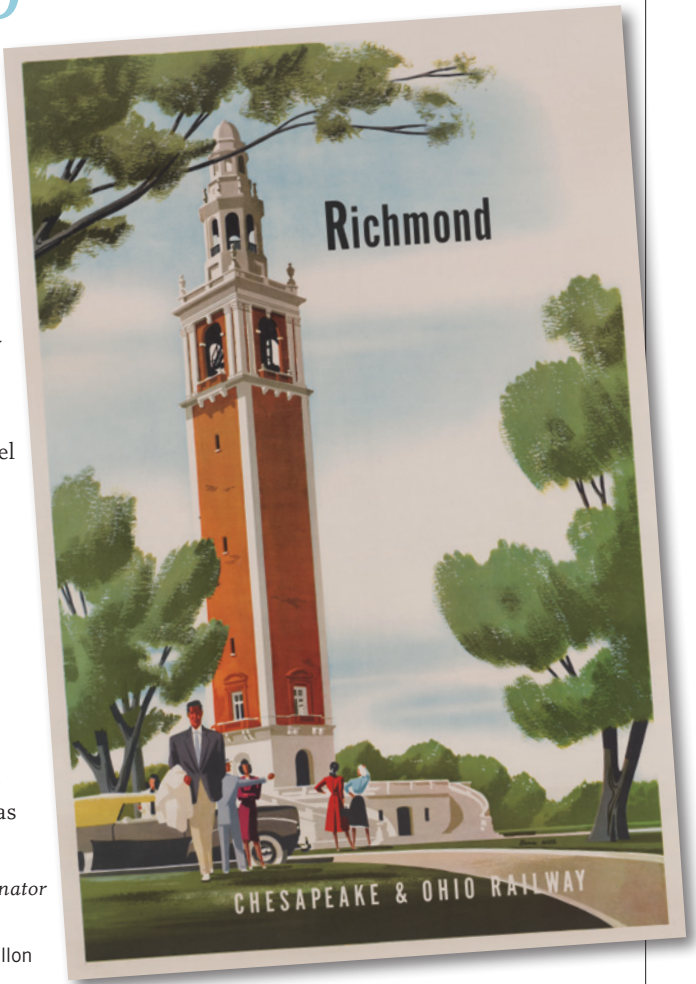
Combining large images and bold text, travel posters were often used as an effective medium to capture the public's attention and engage the imagination. This vintage 1940s or 1950s "Richmond" travel poster, recently acquired for the Prints and Photographs Collection, was originally part of a series commissioned by the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway Company to advertise Virginia as a tourist destination. The other posters in the series promoted travel to Charlottesville, Williamsburg, and the "Virginia Seashore." Mass produced for display on the walls of train stations and travel agencies, such posters made travel seem like an adventure and depicted a world in which everything was stylish and every city welcoming.

The popular response to the C&O Railway's publicity campaign demonstrates the ever-growing importance of visual media in the shaping of 20th-century images of place. Most American railroad posters of the period featured graphics illustrating streamlined locomotives, but for the C&O Railway's Virginia series, artist Bern Hill (1911-1977) chose the more European style of picturing the destination, rather than the mode of transportation. Hill also veered from tradition by selecting the Carillon Bell Tower in Byrd Park rather than often-repeated symbols of Richmond such as the Capitol or the Washington equestrian monument.

—Dale Neighbors, Prints and Photographs Collection Coordinator

TRAINS & TOURISM

C&O Railway Company's Virginia poster series from the 1940s and 1950s used the Carillon Bell Tower in Byrd Park to represent Richmond.



broadSIDE contents

FALL 2010

Paint by Numbers census records illustrate changes 2

Capturing Young Imaginations new children's book 6

The Antiquarian Robert Alonzo Brock Collection 8

What's New on the Web court records, maps & plans 11

Calendar fall events & exhibitions 12

Conservation to Conversations inside the Foundation 14

Adopt Virginia's History save a piece of the past 14

The Virginia Shop new location at State Capitol 15

In Circulation Positive Vibe Express opening 16

LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Open Monday–Saturday, 9 AM–5 PM
Underground parking available for visitors

Welcome to the Library of Virginia, the state's oldest institution dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's history and culture. Our resources, exhibitions, and events attract more than 250,000 visitors each year. Our collections, containing nearly 113 million items, document and illustrate the lives of both famous Virginians and ordinary citizens.

**TAKING COUNT**

An enumerator interviews a woman with 10 children for the 1930 census, the most recent available for public use. Image courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau, Public Information Office.

Paint by Numbers

The evolving U.S. Census illustrates social and demographic changes over time

By Suzy Szasz Palmer

The 2010 census form you received in the mail back in April is probably the last thing on your mind this fall. If you completed and returned the form, you're part of the 72 percent of households to do so. The other 28 percent? Census takers went door-to-door to collect those responses in person. For each percentage point of households that did not return the form, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that it spent \$80 million to collect the data. The bureau persists in this task because an accurate count is critically important. The primary function of the census is to measure the population so that seats in the U.S. House of Representatives can be fairly and correctly apportioned. Though the data collected this spring will be delivered to President Obama by the end of the year, any Congressional consequences will affect 2012 elections—with redistricting lasting another decade. But the census also provides rich data for social scientists and historians researching the country's demographic patterns over time.

THE FIRST COUNT

The origin of our modern-day census lies in the U.S. Constitution, which authorizes Congress to carry out a census in “such manner as they shall by Law direct” (Article I, Section 2). This intentionally broad instruction has led to new legislation every decade since the first Congress enacted an “Act providing for the enumeration of the Inhabitants of the United States” on March 1, 1790. For the 1790 census, marshals canvassed the original 13 states, plus the districts of Kentucky, Maine, Vermont, and the Southwest Territory (Tennessee). Indians “not taxed” were omitted altogether. “Free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years,” were distinguished from “all others.” Counted separately were the “sexes and colours of free persons,” as well as “free males of sixteen years and upwards.” The penalty for not responding to the marshal was \$20, half of which went to the marshal, with the remainder “for the use of the United States.”

For the first five censuses—1790 through 1830—the secretary of state officially led the census, making Thomas Jefferson the first director. But all the directors in this period served in name only, formally overseeing the marshals who did the actual work of collecting the count. As such, legislation authorizing each census needed to be very specific, listing all the questions and providing detailed instructions to the enumerators. With federal marshals working at the state level and loosely controlled by a director, detailed legislation served to guarantee that consistent information was being collected. Small changes in the questions appeared from census to census, generally expanding the age breakdown. But a few other changes reflect the social and political backdrop of the country. In 1820, for example, questions about the number of “foreigners not naturalized” and the number of people (free or enslaved) engaged in “agriculture, commerce, or manufactures” appeared. And in 1830 questions emerged to determine how many people (again free or enslaved) were blind or “deaf and dumb.”

The first “superintending clerk of the census,” William Augustus Weaver, was appointed by Secretary of State John Forsythe to oversee the 1840 census. A Virginian born in Dumfries, Weaver was a naval officer, served during the War of 1812, and worked in the State Department following his military career. But by all accounts he had no statistical experience, and his poor design of the enumeration schedules was criticized for being so unwieldy as to contribute to errors.

The 1850 census was the first to use completely separate schedules, or forms, for “Free Inhabitants” and “Slave Inhabitants.” In addition, free persons were listed individually rather than by family for the first time. Questions for free persons began to explore “profession, occupation, or trade of each person over 15 years of age,” as well as the value of real estate owned, place of birth, and whether the person attended school and could read and write. It also sought to count those who were “insane, idiotic, pauper, or convict.” In the schedule for slave inhabitants, the enslaved were listed by owner, not individually, and each was assigned a number rather than a name. In both schedules, the column for a

continued on next page

Name	Age	Sex	Other
James Jackson	25	M	
Robert Emmet	23	M	
Elizabeth Child	23	F	
John Child	23	M	
Thomas Magruder	23	M	
James Miffin	23	M	
Ann York	23	F	
John L. D. Graham	23	M	

1790

The first census was created when Congress passed an “Act providing for the enumeration of the Inhabitants of the United States” on March 1, 1790. Image courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau, Public Information Office.

USING CENSUS RECORDS

The U.S. population census was first taken in 1790 and has been taken every tenth year since. Not every census is still in existence. The 1790, 1800, and 1890 federal census schedules for Virginia no longer exist. The 1890 population schedules for all states were almost completely destroyed in a 1921 fire. Library of Virginia staff members do not search or photocopy the federal census population schedules.

Federal population censuses are confidential for 72 years, making the 1930 U.S. Federal Census for Virginia the most recent available for public use. Census data from 1940 will be released on April 1, 2012.

Library of Virginia copies of Virginia census microfilm are available through the interlibrary loan program of your local library. All microfilmed census records can be borrowed, for a small fee, from the National Archives. Write or call the National Archives Microfilm Rental Program, P.O. Box 30, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0030, or 301.604.3699.

Indexes in book form through 1870 and on Soundex microfilm for 1880 and 1900–1920 are available in the West Reading Room. Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com), available in the Library’s Reading Rooms, has a complete online collection of U.S. census records for 1790–1930. More-specialized indexes and abstracts can be located by searching our online catalog. For a list of U.S. census records in the Library of Virginia by state, go to www.lva.virginia.gov/public/guides/guide_census.htm.



1870

“Taking the Census—From a Sketch by Thomas Worth,” from *Harper’s Weekly* magazine, November 19, 1870, from Special Collections. New questions in the 1870 census asked about the value of one’s “personal estate.”

4

Whether white, black, mulatto, quadroon, octoroon, Chinese, Japanese, or Indian.

1890

This detail from the 1890 census form shows race categories, including quadroon, octoroon, and Japanese, which were included for the first time. Image courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau, Public Information Office.

person's race was left blank if white and designated "B" if black or "M" if mulatto.

Additional demographic questions emerged in 1870. For the first time, "C" appears for Chinese (effectively covering all East Asians) and "I" appears for American Indian. A question about the value of one's "personal estate" complements the question about the value of property that had been added a decade earlier. Perhaps the result of the time that had elapsed since the founding of the country, questions now inquired whether a person's father or mother was "of foreign birth." By 1880, information about whether a person was widowed or divorced was sought, as was the number of months worked, and whether the person was "maimed, crippled, bedridden, or otherwise disabled."

In the last census in the 19th century, individuals were specifically required to give their "Christian name in full" and were asked if they had been "a soldier, sailor, or marine during the Civil War (U.S.A. or C.S.A.), or the widow of such a person." The category for race expanded to include quadroon, octoroon, and Japanese. Other questions become more specific and personal compared to earlier years, such as "Is the person suffering from an acute chronic disease? If so, what is the name of that disease and the length of time affected?" and "Is the person crippled, maimed, or deformed? If yes, what is the name of his defect?" Inquiries about housing also emerged, asking, for example, whether the home was "hired" or owned, and, if owned, was it "free from mortgage incumbrance."

The most significant change in the 1910 census concerned a person's "mother tongue"—an addition that came late in the process at the request of Congress.



A NEW BUREAU FOR A NEW CENTURY

Of note in the 1900 census is the appearance of a separate schedule for American Indians, with 10 additional questions not asked of other groups. These gathered information on the individual's (and parents') tribe, what "fraction of the person's

lineage is white," whether the person was "living in polygamy," whether the person had acquired American citizenship (and when), and whether the person's house was "movable" (presumably tent or tepee) or "fixed." Two years later, legislation was passed that made the Census Office a permanent agency, known as the Census Bureau. The most significant change in the 1910 census concerned a person's "mother tongue"—an addition that came late in the process at the request of Congress. The separate schedule for American Indians had disappeared by the 1920 census, and language about citizenship became more pointed, asking for the year of immigration, whether the person was "naturalized or alien," and "Can the person speak English?" By 1930, the classification mulatto was no longer used, three-letter codes were provided for Filipino, Hindu, and Korean, and all other descriptions of race were to be written out—the open-ended question an indication of the changing composition of the

American people. Further questions were added for a Census of Unemployment—not surprising in light of the Depression-era year (1930). This section asked whether the person had a job, what type, and how many hours worked, as well as reasons for being out of work if unemployed.

From 1940 through 1990, the census was broken into two distinct parts: population and housing. In 1940—the first census to use a statistical sample—the Population Census included more detailed questions about military service and veteran status as well as whether the individual had a federal Social Security number. The Housing Census required enumerators to give detailed, and sometimes qualitative, responses about the condition of the places where people lived. As a result, we learn about the type of structure (single or multifamily home), exterior material (wood, brick, etc.), number of rooms, availability of running water and toilets, type of fuel used, and even whether the home had a radio.

MAIL CALL

The first census to be distributed by mail took place in 1960, with a "short form" of just five questions: relationship to head of household, age, sex, race, and marital status. Although the questionnaires were mailed out, enumerators collected the completed forms from residents in person. At the same time, enumerators delivered separate "long forms" with 34 additional questions to 25 percent of households, which would return that information by mail to a census office. The

1940

Employees use hand-punch machines to count the 1940 census, which will be released to the public on April 1, 2012. Image courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau, Public Information Office.

From 1940 through 1990, the census was broken into two distinct parts: population and housing.

Unidentified aerial view of Richmond, November 4, 1952, from the Adolph B. Rice Studio Photograph Collection. (Comments on Flickr.com have identified this as the Richmond neighborhood called Crestview.)



long form asked, among other things, about years of education completed and whether the person attended a public or a private school; how many times an individual had been married; how many “babies” a “married woman” had delivered; and, if employed, the type of occupation and how the person got to work. Only in 1970 did the Census Bureau begin using the mail as the primary means of sending and receiving questionnaires,

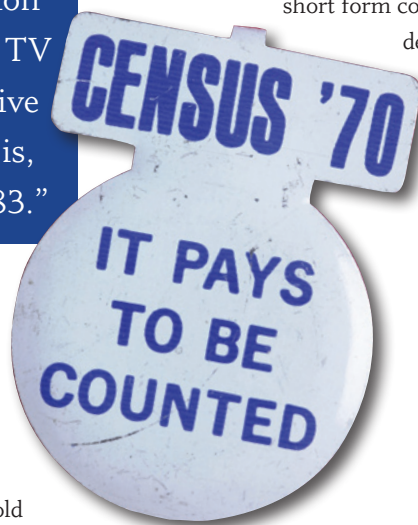
using enumerators only when individuals did not respond. The dual format (short and long form) continued, though changes appeared on the long form, such as questions about language(s) spoken at home, the addition of “parochial” to the school category, and modification of the question about babies born to include any “girl or woman.”

The 1970 Housing Census was the first to ask if a household had a telephone, air conditioning, washing machine, dryer, dishwasher, or television set—and whether the TV was “equipped to receive UHF broadcasts, that is, channels 14 through 83.” Sample questions from the 1980 Population Census ask somewhat subjective questions, such as “How well does this person speak English?” about foreign-language speakers. (As the daughter of immigrant parents,

The 1970 census was the first to ask if a household had a telephone, air conditioning, washing machine, dryer, dishwasher, or television set—and whether the TV was “equipped to receive UHF broadcasts, that is, channels 14 through 83.”

I can only imagine how they responded.) We also see the term “condominium” used for the first time in the housing category in 1980, and in 1990 a question about condominium fees. By 2000, the census combined population and housing questions into one form. Though it included just six questions on the short form, it presented the lengthiest long form to date, with 45 questions, including new inquiries about grandchildren living at home.

And the form you filled out this spring for 2010? While the Census Bureau billed it as one of the shortest forms in history, the short form contains ten questions, four more than a decade ago. But who’s counting? ■

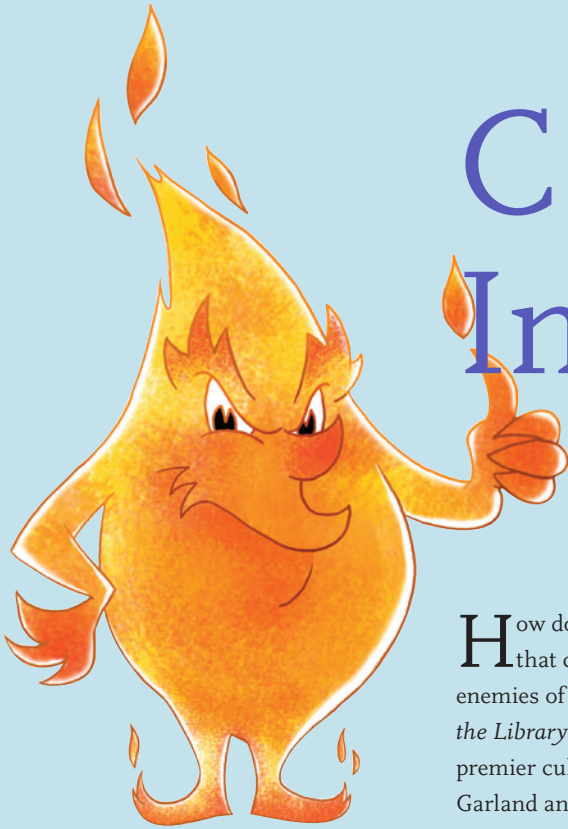


1970

Census enumerator badge, 1970. Image courtesy of the U.S. Census Bureau, Public Information Office.

Capturing Young Imaginations

New children's book describes the work of the Library of Virginia



How do you get school-age children excited about historical documents? The Library is betting that cartoonish villains with names like Acid Andy and Mildred Mold might do the trick. These enemies of the archives are two of the characters in *To Collect, Protect, and Serve: Behind the Scenes at the Library of Virginia*, a new children's book that explains the history and function of one of Virginia's premier cultural institutions. Making its debut this winter, the book was funded by a grant from the Garland and Agnes Taylor Gray Foundation, an organization that seeks to improve the quality of life in Virginia by supporting its cultural, historical, and educational institutions. The Library will distribute the 36-page, softcover book to students who attend programs here and will also give classroom sets of the books to select schools in Virginia.

"The idea for a children's book on the Library came about during planning for an educational workshop for students," said Tameka Hobbs, the Library's program and education manager. "As a part of that program, we thought that we needed a tool to communicate the ideas behind the work that goes on here."

In addition to playing on the familiar law-enforcement motto "To Protect and to Serve," the book's title neatly sums up the organization's purpose. The Library collects history, protects manuscripts and records, and serves the people of the commonwealth of Virginia.

Hobbs and other staff members involved in the book's development created characters to represent three core functions of the Library—Archie the Archivist, Libby the Librarian, and Connie the Conservator. This trio leads an exploration of the valuable documents housed here and the tricky work involved in protecting them from the Archival Enemies—Liquid Lenny, Andy Acid, Mildred Mold, Bartholomew B. Bug, Fred the Flame, and Lucia Light. The latest foes in the lineup, Surge and Worm.i.am, represent threats to electronic records. The characters, illustrated by Les Harper of Lightbox Studios, explain the vital function that archivists and librarians perform in keeping historical documents and records safe for future generations—and they will become tools in programs that the Library will offer on-site.

"The 'Archival Enemies' are a fun way to personify what can go wrong with a paper



document, especially because most people don't really consider them threats," said Hobbs. "It's a whole new way to look at history and preservation."

The book profiles some of the extraordinary items that are unique to the Library's collection and important to the history of our state and nation, such as the Declaration of Independence, the Virginia Declaration of Rights, and the Statute for Religious Freedom. It also spotlights "ordinary" documents that tell dramatic stories, like a deed book that escaped destruction by fire during the Civil War and has now been preserved by our archivists.

A focus group with educators and staff members held last spring generated positive response to the book's concept. The teachers were eager to learn more about the Library themselves, and they praised

the format used to deliver the information. One example cited was a comic strip section about a wounded Revolutionary War veteran from Goochland County, Edward Houchins, who petitioned the General Assembly for an increase in his pension in 1810. The petition that Houchins sent to the legislature not only described how his war injury made it difficult to support his family, but it also included a bullet fragment pulled from his wound.

"That document proved to be a perfect, dramatic tool—a commonplace document about an average citizen who rose to the call of duty and left us with a remarkable artifact of his personal sacrifice," said Hobbs. "And it's kind of gross. Kids like gross."



HISTORY HEROES & VILLAINS

In the new children's book *To Collect, Protect, and Serve: Behind the Scenes at the Library of Virginia*, Archival Avengers explain how they protect valuable documents from their foes the Archival Enemies. The enemies include Bartholomew B. Bug (AT LEFT) and Fred the Flame (UPPER LEFT). Illustrations by Les Harper of Lightbox Studios.

"The staff got a kick out of our 'Archival Avengers.' It's funny to see an illustrated pseudo-superhero describing and performing your job," said Hobbs. "I get excited about introducing young children to the valuable but often unglamorous work my colleagues perform week in and week out."

"It's funny to see an illustrated pseudo-superhero describing and performing your job."

Library staff members who contributed to the development of the book include Vince Brooks, Tom Camden, Carl Childs, Dale Dulaney, Maria Kimberly, Jolene Milot, and Minor Weisiger. The Library's graphic designers, Christine Sisic and Amy Winegardner, provided the design and production.

"It took us several rounds to settle on a concept that would work," said Hobbs. "We had a lot of laughs around the table as we worked from my original far-out ideas to something we could execute that would communicate with our audience. What didn't make it into the book is a different story."

The book retails for \$15.99 and will be sold exclusively through the Virginia Shop—online and at both its stores (the Library of Virginia and the Virginia State Capitol). For more information, go to www.thevirginiashop.org or call 804.692.3524.

—Ann Henderson, Editor, Broadside

THE ANTIQUARIAN

Finally available in Virginia, the massive
Robert Alonzo Brock Collection
enriches the Library's resources



AN INDEFATIGABLE COLLECTOR

Although Robert Alonzo Brock worked in his family's lumber business, he was devoted to Virginia history.

Virginia lost the largest and most valuable private collection of Virginia ever assembled when the collection of Robert Alonzo Brock (1839–1914) of Richmond was sold to Henry and Arabella Huntington of California in 1922. Eighty years later, the Library of Virginia and the Huntington Library of San Marino, California, entered into a cooperative agreement to microfilm the approximately 50,000 manuscripts and 450 volumes of bound manuscripts in the Brock Collection. Funding for the project was provided by the Library of Virginia Foundation, the Roller-Bottimore Foundation, the Robins Foundation, and the Michigan Chapter of the Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America. The microfilming project is now complete. (For information about the collection, see the sidebar article at right.)

A widely recognized authority on Virginia history and genealogy in his day, Brock seldom refrained from public comment on any aspect of Virginia history. Historians, writers, genealogists, and collectors from all over the United States and western Europe appealed to him for assistance and advice on Virginia.

Born in Richmond in 1839, Robert Alonzo Brock received little formal education, leaving school at age 11 to work in a family lumber business after his father died. He served throughout the Civil War in the Confederate army, first in the infantry and then as a steward at Camp Winder, a Richmond military hospital. After the war, Brock resumed his business career. He married Sallie Kidd Haw in 1869, and they had two daughters before her death in 1887. His marriage to Lucy Ann Peters in 1889 produced one son.

Brock developed an early interest in Virginia history and began collecting books and papers before the Civil War. In 1875 he was elected corresponding secretary of the Virginia Historical Society and was charged with acquiring and cataloging material. Brock also embarked on an ambitious program of publishing Virginia historical documents, completing 11 volumes during his tenure. These covered such topics as Huguenot

continued on page 10



POSTER CELEBRATES THE STATE'S RICH CULTURAL RECORD

This year's Archives Month poster—"Making Connections: Archives and Imagination"—was created from images submitted from 15 archival repositories across the state. We encourage you to explore your Virginia history by delving into an archives collection near you—whatever the month. For more information, go to www.lva.virginia.gov/public/archivesmonth/2010. Since 2002, the Library of Virginia, in conjunction with the Virginia Caucus of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference and the Library of Virginia Foundation, has produced a poster commemorating the commonwealth's archival and special collections repositories and the rich cultural record they protect. Each year, cultural heritage repositories from across the state contribute to the celebration by sharing images for inclusion on the poster and the annual celebration Web site, as well as by hosting events at their home institutions during the month of October.

WHAT'S IN THE BROCK COLLECTION?

Before being microfilmed, the collection of some 50,000 manuscripts was filed in 389 boxes, arranged into 132 subcollections of papers of families; individuals; business firms; and government, fraternal, private, and political organizations, as well as literary and miscellaneous manuscripts. Chronologically, the collection ranges from the colonial period through the end of the 19th century, with the bulk of the materials dating to the middle years of the 1800s. The items include letters, diaries, military and business records, church and other organizational records, genealogical research, and Civil War-related materials of every sort—as well as much of Brock's own correspondence as he assembled this amazing assortment of resources.

Topics covered include Freemasons, clergymen, newspapers and periodicals, railroads, banks, the Mutual Assurance Society, U.S. and Virginia courts, and the Virginia General Assembly (Brock acquired a substantial quantity of official Virginia government documents that should never have been in private hands).

Personal papers include those of Governor Benjamin Harrison, George Mason, Robert H. Maury, Joseph Reid Anderson, Lewis Webb, Edward S. Willis (Civil War letters), and Thomas H. Wynne, as well as the Pleasants, Lyons, Randolph-Tucker, and Ruffin families.

Some examples of interesting items include:

- a 1777 company payroll of the 2nd Virginia Regiment
- passes for prisoners paroled at Appomattox on April 10, 1865
- a 1774–1781 account book kept by William Waddy of Louisa County
- an 1875–1876 diary and journal kept by an elocution teacher

To explore the collection, visit the Library's Web site, www.lva.virginia.gov. Find "For the Public," and then click on "Search the LVA Catalog." Within the catalog page, click on the "Archives & Manuscripts" tab, then search the Brock Collection by its accession number, 41008.

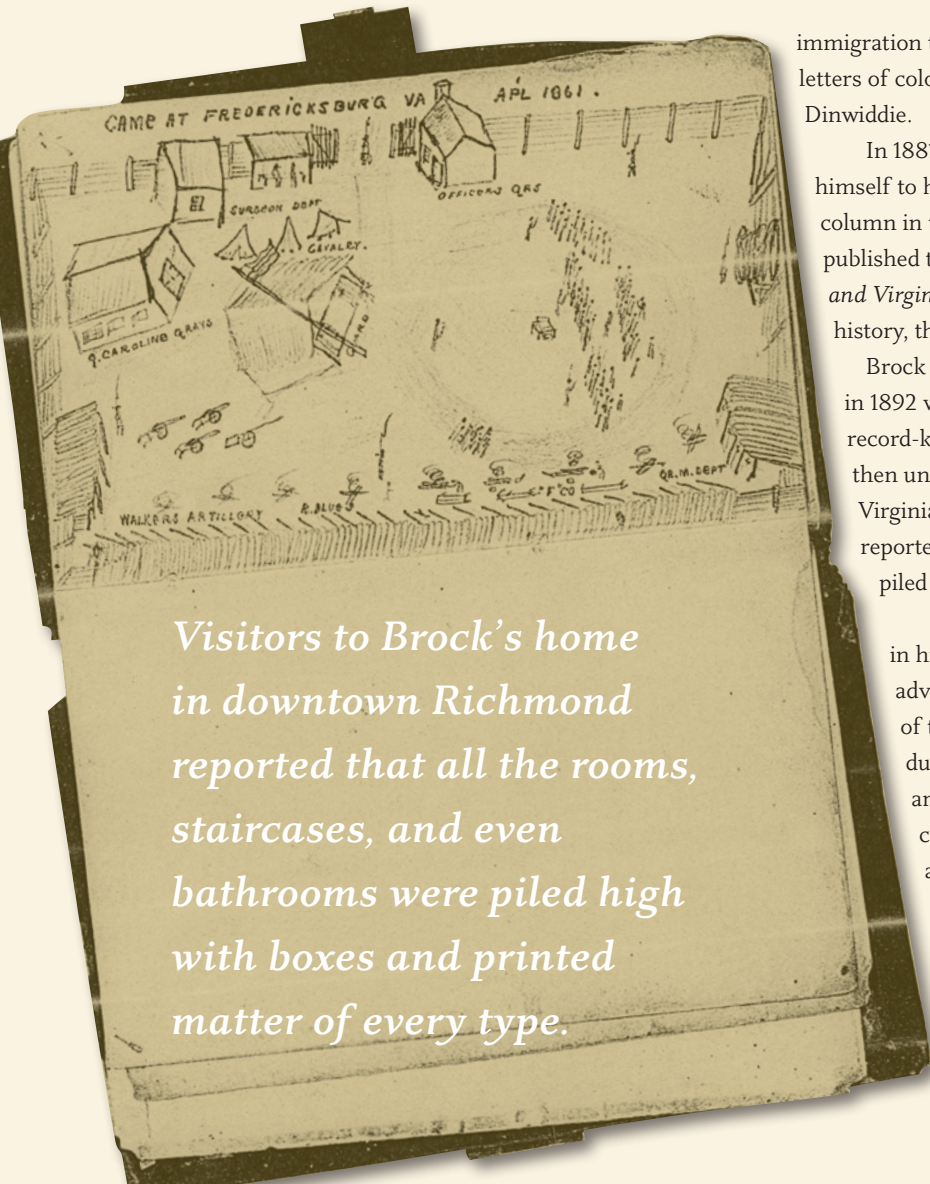
immigration to Virginia, the Virginia Company of London, and the letters of colonial lieutenant governors Alexander Spotswood and Robert Dinwiddie.

In 1881 Brock retired from the family lumber business and devoted himself to historical research and collecting. He wrote a genealogical column in the *Richmond Standard* from 1879 to 1882, compiled and published the state's first large biographical reference work (*Virginia and Virginians*, 1888), and served as editor of a journal of Confederate history, the *Southern Historical Society Papers*, from 1887 to 1914.

Brock was deposed as secretary of the Virginia Historical Society in 1892 when the organization's trustees became dissatisfied with his record-keeping, publications expenditures, and outside work. From then until his death he continued to collect and correspond about Virginia history. Visitors to Brock's home in downtown Richmond reported that all the rooms, staircases, and even bathrooms were piled high with boxes and printed matter of every type.

When Brock died in 1914, there was immediate interest in his large collection. State Librarian Henry R. McIlwaine advised Governor Henry C. Stuart that a wholesale purchase of the collection was unnecessary, as the Library had many duplicates of the books and it could be bought piecemeal at an expected auction. In fact, no auction was held, and the collection was purchased by collectors Henry E. Huntington and his wife Arabella Yarrington Huntington in 1922 for approximately \$35,000.

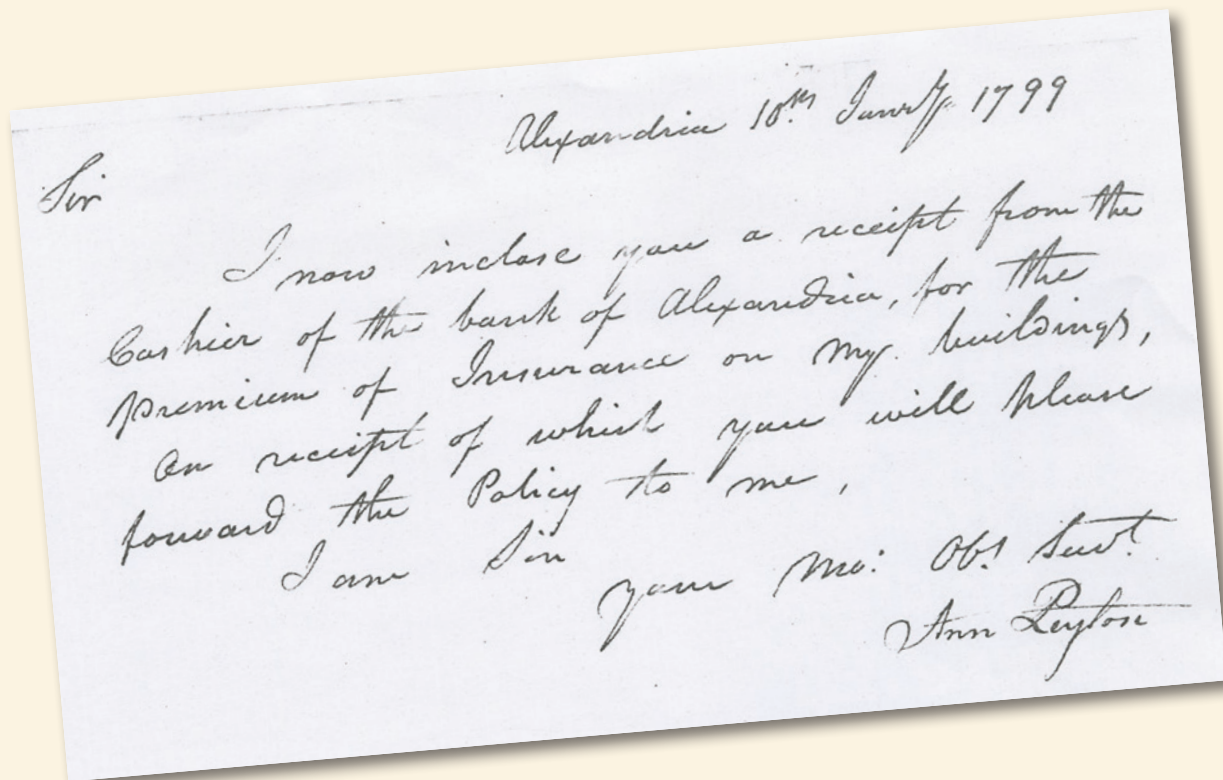
Portions of this article appeared in previously published pieces by Edward D. C. Campbell, Jr., former deputy librarian of Virginia; Brent Tarter, former program manager, Education and Outreach Division; and Minor Weisiger, archives reference coordinator, Research and Information Services Division.



Visitors to Brock's home in downtown Richmond reported that all the rooms, staircases, and even bathrooms were piled high with boxes and printed matter of every type.

CAPTURING THE WAR

This April 1861 sketch from one of Brock's diaries appears to reflect his earliest days in the Confederate army.



BUSINESS IN LETTERS

Unusual for 1799, a woman wrote to the Mutual Assurance Society concerning an insurance premium "on my buildings."

WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB

Court Records, Public Works Maps, and Architectural Plans

New digital collections and content available on VirginiaMemory.com

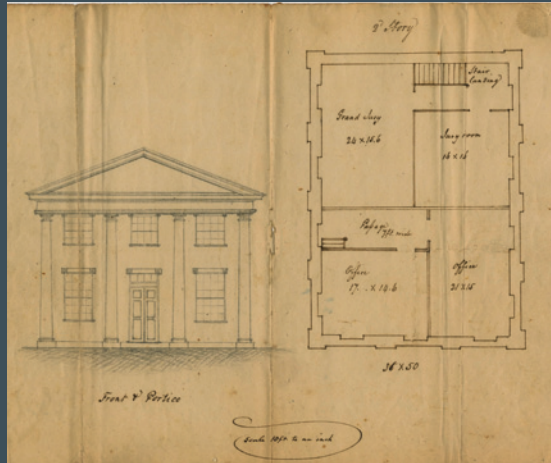
Lost Records Localities Database

Local records archivist Catherine O'Brien worked with intern Susan Gray Page to make digital images available for entries in the popular Lost Records Localities Database. This database indexes surviving items from counties and cities that suffered court record loss through various acts of nature (floods) and mankind (fire, military activity). Library staff members find the records while processing collections from private papers or, most often, other localities' court papers. Record types include wills, deeds, marriage bonds, and many others. An invaluable resource for family historians in particular, the digital images of these items are now available online. The collection can be found under "County and City Research" on Virginia Memory's Digital Collections by Topic page: www.virginiamemory.com/collections/collections_by_topic.

Board of Public Works Maps and Drawings

Another popular collection, the Board of Public Works Maps and Drawings, has gotten a facelift. Technological obsolescence led the Library to reformat the existing online Board of Public Works Inventory and related images of county maps and canal, turnpike, and bridge drawings. The images are now offered as JPEG 2000 files, the same format used for our other

online maps. In addition, the guide and inventory to the collection is now available as a downloadable PDF file. The collection can be found under "Maps and Architecture" on Virginia Memory's Digital Collections by Topic page: www.virginiamemory.com/collections/collections_by_topic.



VINTAGE VIEW

This image of an architectural elevation and plan of the Warren County courthouse (1834–1839) is one of many available in the Library's Public Buildings and Grounds Digital Collection.

Public Buildings & Grounds Collection

Senior local records archivist Vince Brooks has digitized selected images from the Public Buildings and Grounds Collection, which gives users a glimpse into the 18th- and 19th-century architectural history of several localities. Drawings and plans are available for public structures such as courthouses, jails, clerks' offices, and more. The collection can be found under "Maps and Architecture" on Virginia Memory's Digital Collections by Topic page: www.virginiamemory.com/collections/collections_by_topic.

We encourage you to visit Virginia Memory often to see what we've added. Or sign up for RSS feeds to our Digital Collections pages and

the "Out of the Box" blog at www.virginiamemory.com/about/news_feeds.

—Kathy Jordan, Digital Initiatives and Web Resources Manager

EXHIBITION OPENING DECEMBER 6, 2010

UNION OR SECESSION — Virginians Decide —

DECEMBER 6, 2010—OCTOBER 1, 2011

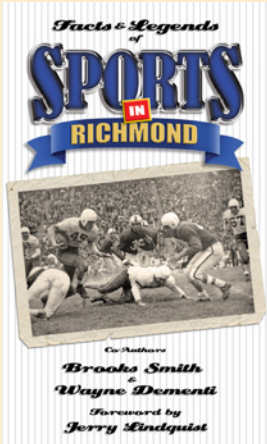
What were Virginians thinking and discussing as states in the Lower South withdrew from the United States following the election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860? All eyes were on Virginia during the secession winter, and both federal and Confederate leaders understood Virginia's pivotal role in shaping opinion on secession and Union. Lower South states sent commissioners to convince the Virginians that their fates were tied to the slaveholding South; federal officials courted Virginia leaders in hopes of brokering a compromise. Virginia's decision fundamentally shaped the course of all subsequent events.

Union or Secession: Virginians Decide will describe and analyze the crisis as it unfolded between the 1860 presidential campaign and the First Battle of Manassas in July 1861, with a particular emphasis on the secession convention and debates. By using the words of Virginians in their diaries, correspondence, newspapers, speeches, and other records, the exhibition will let Virginians from all walks of life speak for themselves as they viewed the crisis and sometimes changed their minds as events during the winter and spring of 1861 unfolded. Their words indicate that they did not regard secession and civil war as inevitable. *Union or Secession* will underscore the complexity of the issues that Virginians faced.

calendar

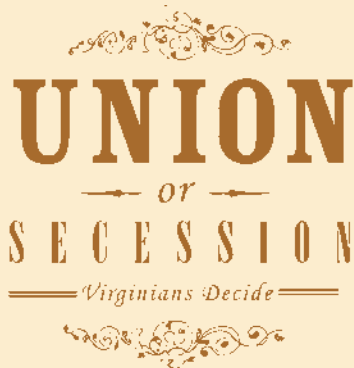
All events are free unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, December 1 | 6:30–8:00 PM
BOOK TALK BY WAYNE DEMENTI & BROOKS SMITH
Facts & Legends of Sports in Richmond
 Place: Conference Rooms



Wayne Dementi & Brooks Smith will discuss their latest book, *Facts and Legends of Sports in Richmond*, which celebrates the sports of Richmond—the venues, memorable events, and athletes. The book features essays that first aired on WCVE Public Radio as part of Smith's commentary series, *Rediscovering Richmond*, together with new and vintage

photographs collected or personally captured by the Dementi family of photographers, as well as a foreword by Jerry Lindquist, Hall of Fame sports columnist.



DECEMBER 6, 2010 – OCTOBER 1, 2011

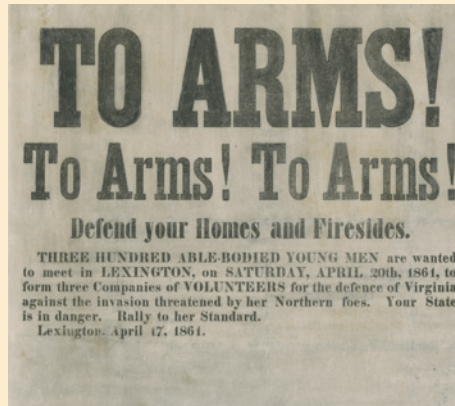
December 8, 9, 15, 21 & 22 | 11:00–11:45 AM
EXHIBITION TOURS

Union or Secession Exhibition Guided Tours

Place: Exhibition Gallery & Lobby. Space is limited. To register call 804.692.3901.

What were Virginians thinking and discussing as the first Southern states withdrew from the United States following the election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860? Why was Virginia's decision critical to America's fate in 1861 and key to the ultimate course and outcome of the sectional crisis? Virginia was central to American identity for its role in the founding of the United States and

its political principles. *Union or Secession* explores what Virginians thought and debated as the crisis unfolded. Explore the choices Virginians faced as they decided their fate and the lasting consequences of their decisions for Virginia and the nation.



BEFORE THE WAR

Through historical documents, visitors can explore Virginians' changing opinions during the sectional crisis.

Thursday, December 9

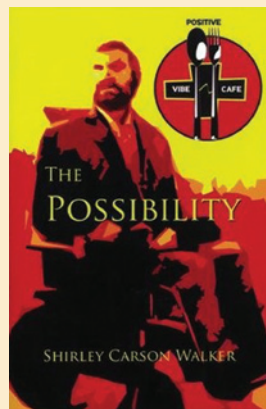
5:30–7:30 PM

"BOOKS ON BROAD" HOLIDAY SPECIAL

The Possibility

Place: The Virginia Shop

December's "Books on Broad" will feature live music, special discounts in the Virginia Shop, and, as always, complimentary light refreshments. The event will also feature a book talk and signing for *The Possibility*,



which tells the story of Richmond's Positive Vibe Café and the inspiration behind the remarkable organization that provides employment and training opportunities for people with physical and cognitive disabilities. The Positive Vibe Foundation recently opened a satellite location at the Library of Virginia, Positive Vibe Express.



Tuesday, December 14 | 1:00–2:00 PM

EXHIBITION OPENING

Reaping the Whirlwind: Virginians on the Eve of War

Place: Lecture Hall

Elizabeth R. Varon, professor of history at the University of Virginia, will deliver a keynote address for the opening of the *Union or Secession: Virginians Decide* exhibition. Varon is the author of *Disunion!: The Coming of the American Civil War, 1789–1859*, from the University of North Carolina Press. Sponsored by Middleburg Trust.

Thursday, December 16 | Noon–1:00 PM

MINING THE TREASURE HOUSE TALK

Creating the "Union or Secession" Exhibition

Place: Conference Rooms

How do you tell the story of an important political event like Virginia's secession from the United States as it was lived by the people of that time, relying mainly on archival documents from the Library of Virginia's collections? Join us as our exhibition curatorial team discusses the challenges, intrigue, and rewards of piecing together the story of secession through the voices and experiences of a wide variety of Virginians. Sponsored by Middleburg Trust.

Friday, December 17 | 5:00–7:00 PM

EDUCATOR OPEN HOUSE

Educators' Tour of "Union or Secession" Exhibition

Place: Exhibition Gallery & Lobby

Educators are invited for a special viewing of the *Union or Secession: Virginians Decide* exhibition to learn how it can be used to teach students about this controversial era in Virginia and United States history. Participants will receive complimentary educational resources featuring content correlated to the Virginia Standards of Learning. Registration is required. Call 804.692.3999 for more information. Sponsored by Middleburg Trust.

exhibition at 800 east broad

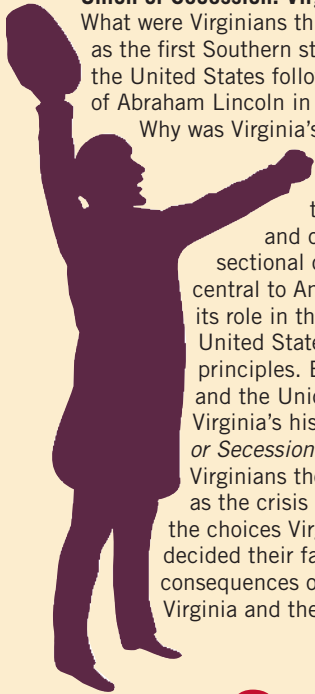
December 6, 2010–October 29, 2011

Exhibition Gallery & Lobby

Union or Secession: Virginians Decide

What were Virginians thinking and discussing as the first Southern states withdrew from the United States following the election of Abraham Lincoln in November 1860?

Why was Virginia's decision critical to America's fate in 1861 and key to the ultimate course and outcome of the sectional crisis? Virginia was central to American identity for its role in the founding of the United States and its political principles. Both the Confederacy and the Union wanted to claim Virginia's historical legacy. *Union or Secession* explores what Virginians thought and debated as the crisis unfolded. Explore the choices Virginians faced as they decided their fate and the lasting consequences of their decisions for Virginia and the nation.



& at the state capitol

December 13, 2010–October 29, 2011

Virginia State Capitol Visitor Center

The Struggle to Decide: Virginia's Secession Crisis

Presented by the Library of Virginia. In the aftermath of the election of Abraham Lincoln as U.S. president in November and the beginning of the secession crisis in December 1860, Virginia had a fateful choice to make: Would it remain in, or secede from, the United States of America? In January 1861 the Virginia General Assembly called for a state convention to act for Virginia during the crisis. Convening in February 1861, the 152 men elected to the Virginia Convention faced the terrible task of deciding the fate of Virginia, and perhaps the nation. *The Struggle to Decide* examines the actions taken by convention delegates and the governor that had a profound effect on Richmond and the Virginia State Capitol.

applause!

Winners and finalists honored at 13th Annual Literary Awards

Congratulations to the winners and finalists honored at a gala celebration hosted by author Adriana Trigiani on October 16, 2010, at the Library of Virginia. The 13th Annual Library of Virginia Awards Celebration Honoring Virginia Authors & Friends recognized Virginia authors or, in the case of nonfiction, works on a Virginia subject. Other honors included the Literary Lifetime Achievement Award, the Whitney & Scott Cardozo Award for Children's Literature, the Carole Weinstein Poetry Prize, and the People's Choice Awards for Fiction and Nonfiction.

LITERARY LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Lee Smith

MYRL JENKINS SEXTON LITERARY AWARD FOR FICTION

Barbara Kingsolver | *The Lacuna* (winner)

Ramola D | *Temporary Lives: Stories*

Josh Weil | *The New Valley*

HONORABLE MENTION

Christine Hale | *Basil's Dream*

NONFICTION

Woody Holton | *Abigail Adams* (winner)

David A. Taylor | *Soul of a People*

Melvin I. Urofsky | *Louis D. Brandeis: A Life*

POETRY

Debra Nystrom | *Bad River Road* (winner)

Fred D'Aguiar | *Continental Shelf*

Sarah Kennedy | *Home Remedies*

HONORABLE MENTION

Joshua Poteat | *Illustrating the Machine that Makes the World*

THE CAROLE WEINSTEIN POETRY PRIZE

Henry Hart

CARDOZO AWARD FOR CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Jacqueline Jules (illustrated by Jef Czekaj)

Unite or Die: How Thirteen States Became a Nation

13TH ANNUAL Library of Virginia Literary Awards Celebration 10.16.2010

PRESENTED BY



Dominion

PEOPLE'S CHOICE FOR FICTION

Jeannette Walls | *Half Broke Horses* (winner)

David Baldacci | *First Family*

Ellen Crosby | *The Riesling Retribution*

Barbara Kingsolver | *The Lacuna*

Adriana Trigiani | *Very Valentine*

PEOPLE'S CHOICE FOR NONFICTION

Beth Brown | *Haunted Plantations of Virginia* (winner)

Bruce Chadwick | *I Am Murdered*

Kelly Cherry | *Girl in a Library*

Joanne Crutchfield | *It'll All Come Out in the Wash*

David A. Taylor | *Soul of a People*

LITERARY AWARDS SPONSORS

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Richmond Times-Dispatch

CELEBRATION 2010

FROM CONSERVATION TO CONVERSATIONS

A look inside the Library of Virginia Foundation

The mission of the Library of Virginia Foundation is to advocate and provide private support for the Library of Virginia and its mission. “The Foundation is able to raise private funding to help in areas of outreach and education, which are areas generally not funded by state resources,” said the Foundation’s executive director, Mary Beth McIntire. “In addition, the Foundation is able to assist not only in raising funds, but also in raising awareness for the Library itself.” The Foundation is also well-positioned to undertake unique entrepreneurial opportunities, which meet the goals of both awareness and fund-raising.

So whether you provide funding for the restoration of a rare document, enjoy a tasty lunch at the Library’s café, or attend a book talk by a best-selling author, your participation makes a difference in helping us reach our goals.

The following are the ways that the Foundation reaches out to the community to help raise critical private funds for its mission:

ANNUAL GIVING

The annual giving campaign is primarily administered through the Library’s membership organization, the Semper Virginia Society. Though annual gifts are welcome without membership, choosing to become a member in association with your annual gift provides

additional benefits, depending on the level of support. Benefits can include discounts at the Virginia Shop, subscriptions to newsletters and the Library’s magazine, the opportunity to purchase advance-sale event tickets, and, at some levels, free event tickets.

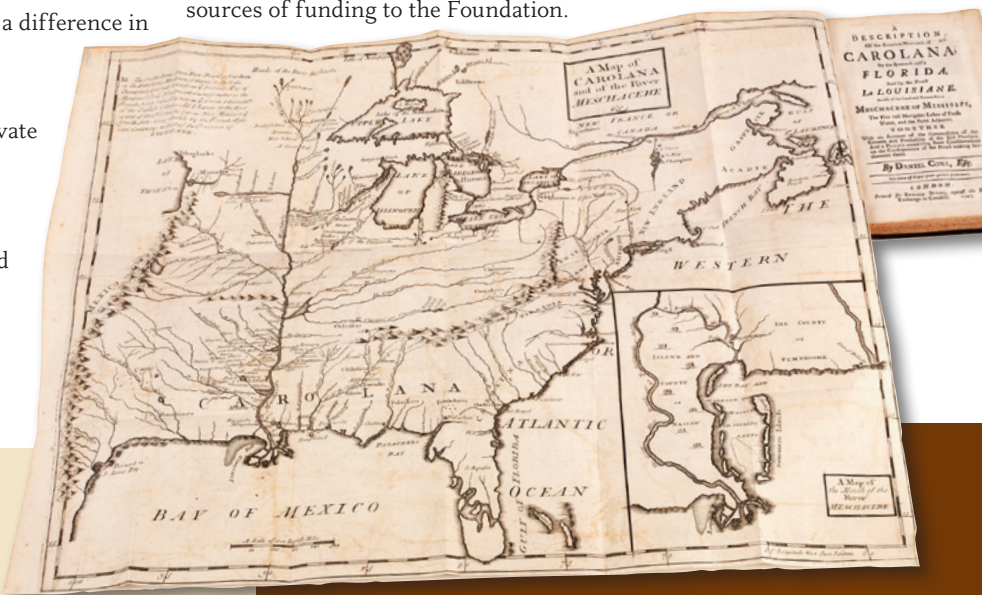
PLANNED GIVING

Planned gifts to the Library come in many forms, but all share one common attribute—they are gifts that support the Library beyond the donor’s lifetime. For those who have a deep commitment to Virginia’s history, including the Library in long-term planning can have great meaning. It may also offer donors valuable tax benefits, potential lifetime income, and the opportunity to transfer assets at a reduced tax cost.

EVENTS

Many of the events at the Library of Virginia serve a dual purpose—they help introduce new audiences to the Library and provide sources of funding to the Foundation.

GET INVOLVED



ADOPT VIRGINIA’S HISTORY

Save a Piece of the Past

Your gift can preserve specific rare items in the collections

The Adopt Virginia’s History program supports our conservation efforts, helping the Library preserve our state’s collective memory. Conservation can involve a simple repair and cleaning to make an item more accessible to the general public, which can cost as little as \$100. A larger, more complex work can cost as much as \$5,000 for a complete restoration. Any adoption gift of \$100 or more will be recognized in the Library’s catalog record of the item. We welcome donations to our general conservation fund in any amount. You can be proud of your contribution to this important cause, which is tax deductible. For more information, please contact Dan Stackhouse (804.692.3813 or dan.stackhouse@lva.virginia.gov).

In Need of Conservation and Up for Adoption:

A Description of the English Province of Carolana, by the Spaniards call’d Florida, and by the French La Louisiane

Genre: Book | **Date:** 1727

Author: Daniel Coxe (1673–1739)

Description: Printed for E. Symon, London, this is the first English work to describe the southeastern United States in detail and is credited with being the first published proposal for a political confederation of the North American colonies. The author, Daniel Coxe, resided in the Carolinas for 14 years and claimed grants to much of the South from his father. The elder Daniel Coxe was physician to Charles II and Queen Anne. This first edition includes a rare large folding map, which was drafted by the Coxe family to further its land claims. The map shows most of the South and includes regions as far north as the Great Lakes. Much of the information, gathered from British hunters and explorers, was published here for the first time.

Restoration Needs: The loose front and back covers are coming apart from the spine. The map inside is torn and needs to be resealed in the volume. Conservation work will include repairing the hinges of the book, consolidating the leather, filling in the losses with Japanese tissue, and repairing the map.

Estimated Restoration Cost: \$200

The Virginia Literary Awards and the Literary Luncheon are ticketed events that bring best-selling authors to Virginia. The key support of corporate sponsors allows much of the revenue from these two signature events to be funneled back into the Foundation's revenue stream to fund important outreach projects. These funds also help the Library offer many other events to the general public that are free of charge.

RETAIL

Shopping and dining for a good cause? It's a win-win situation for all involved. The Virginia Shop at the Library of Virginia and the new Virginia Shop at the Capitol both offer the finest of the commonwealth's artistic, historical, cultural, and culinary traditions, while proceeds from the shops' sales directly benefit the Library of Virginia.

Dining at the Positive Vibe Express at the Library of Virginia offers a top-notch food experience, along with the knowledge that each meal benefits not only the Library of Virginia's mission, but also that of the Positive Vibe Foundation, which trains and employs individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities.

ADOPTION

The Adopt Virginia's History program has been immensely successful, and direct donations have saved many historically significant items in the collection. Items include rare books and documents, fine art, manuscripts, maps, newspapers, ephemera, photographs, prints, journals, wills, deeds, acts of assembly, sculpture, architectural plans, correspondence, Bibles, and more. Adoption provides funds for item conservation or repair, and adoptions valued at greater than \$100 come with a certificate and a notation of your gift in our online catalog according to your wishes—in celebration of a birthday, in memory of a loved one, or for another reason.

Ways to support the Library of Virginia are as varied as our donors themselves. With your continued support, the Library of Virginia is able to help preserve Virginia's history.

For more information, please contact Dan Stackhouse (804.692.3813 or dan.stackhouse@lva.virginia.gov). ■

a capitol idea

THE VIRGINIA SHOP AT STATE CAPITOL ADDS TO THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

This August the Virginia Shop expanded into a second location at the Virginia State Capitol. Working in partnership with the Virginia Capitol Foundation, the Library of Virginia Foundation has established a second retail outlet that generates revenue to support the mission of the Library. Some of the proceeds also go to the Virginia Capitol Foundation, which supports the ongoing restoration, preservation, and interpretation of the Virginia State Capitol and Capitol Square.

The new Virginia Shop is located just inside the visitor entrance at the Capitol and features merchandise that interprets Virginia's rich political and social history. Items ranging from children's books about U.S. and Virginia history to Founding Father bobblehead dolls are available, as well as some of the same made-in-Virginia products that can be found in the Library shop, such as soaps, chutneys, jewelry, ceramics, glassware, and Virginia cookbooks.

The shop, along with an exhibition gallery and the fabulous Meriwether's Café, is part of the Virginia State Capitol Visitor Center in an underground extension added to the building a few years ago. Travelers from across the country and around the world visit the Virginia State Capitol every day for guided tours.

Come and visit us at our new location in the Virginia State Capitol. The Capitol shop is open seven days a week: Monday–Saturday, 9:30 AM–4:30 PM; and Sunday, 1:00–4:30 PM. For more information, call 804.692.3524.



THE virginia SHOP

The Virginia Shop at the Library of Virginia is pleased to present the **2010 Byers' Choice Miller & Rhoads Santa**, an exclusive design available only in 2010 while supplies last.

Join us for special sales and refreshments during our holiday season "Books on Broad" event on December 9. See the Library of Virginia's calendar of events for more information (www.lva.virginia.gov) or call the shop at 804.692.3524.



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

800 East Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
804.692.3524

www.thevirginiashop.org

by the numbers...

Your support of the Library of Virginia makes a huge difference. Here are some of the things we do—thanks to you.

5 maps with historical significance to Virginia were adopted by individuals—like you—for conservation in the month of July 2010.

39,088 archival and reference questions were answered by Library staff members in fiscal year 2009–2010: 25,211 in person, 8,192 over the telephone, and 5,685 by e-mail or postal mail.

54 miles of shelf space is contained in the Library of Virginia's State Records Center, which has a capacity of 85,000 cubic feet of archival storage and 250,000 cubic feet of storage for other state agencies.

5 million digital images of chancery records are now available online at www.virginiamemory.com/collections/chancery.



GET YOUR PICS! You can now view and order images online from Library of Virginia events at Shutterfly. Go to www.shutterfly.com/pro/libraryofvirginia/libraryofvirginia.

in circulation

Laudable Lunch

Library launches the new **POSITIVE VIBE EXPRESS**, a café with a good mission

Governor Bob McDonnell participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony in August to christen the opening of Positive Vibe Express, the Library of Virginia's new breakfast and lunch destination. Positive Vibe Express is the second location for the Positive Vibe Café, both of which help prepare people with cognitive or physical disabilities for paid employment in the food service industry through training and employment.

WARM WELCOME

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Governor Bob McDonnell talks with Library of Virginia Board member Carole Weinstein; Susan Greenbaum and Solomon Miles perform "Walk in These Shoes," the song Greenbaum composed for the Positive Vibe Foundation; Governor McDonnell greets Stephanie Copeland (FAR LEFT), a staff member of Positive Vibe Express, and Anna Penkalski; Library of Virginia Foundation Board members Stephanie Broadwater (Board president) (FAR LEFT) and Kate Duval (CENTER) talk with State Senator John Watkins.



Cultural and historic resources label great societies. The Greeks provided a political structure along with significant arts and sciences. The legacy of Ancient Rome includes a compendium of achievement that informs our way of life even today in ways religious, technological, and artistic. What will others inherit from us? Although it may be impossible to put a fine point on our specific contribution to the future, the Library of Virginia attempts to preserve and promote the commonwealth's culture and history for our current generation. You can help with this mission!

Daily, donors and volunteers make significant contributions to the Library's ongoing work through its Foundation. The Library of Virginia Foundation advocates for and provides public and private support of the Library of Virginia and its mission. I have chosen to volunteer time supporting the Foundation primarily because of the Library's public programming, including



the Governor Henry Lectures; its efforts to preserve Virginia's political records; and its ongoing local library support, which gives hundreds of thousands of library users access to resources and materials.

I encourage you to join with me in support of the Foundation and become involved. Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer.

Christopher K. Peace represents the 97th District in the Virginia House of Delegates and serves as executive director of Historic Polegreen Church Foundation.

GIVING

✂ *Enjoy the Benefits of Membership* THE SEMPER VIRGINIA SOCIETY

Membership gives you the opportunity to help the Library of Virginia fulfill its mission as guardian of the world's most important collection of materials about Virginia and early America. Your gift will have an impact on areas such as preservation, acquisitions, and public programming, which are in critical need of resources. Benefits include advance notice of lectures, readings, and events, as well as a discount of up to 20% in the Virginia Shop (located on the Library's first floor), and more. For a complete list of benefits, or to join online, visit www.lva.virginia.gov/donate or call 804.692.3900. Mail form with payment to: Library of Virginia Foundation, 800 E. Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219-8000.

Yes! I want to join The Semper Virginia Society. CHOOSE YOUR GIVING LEVEL:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Captain John Smith Circle (\$50-99) | <input type="checkbox"/> Anne Spencer Circle (\$1,000-2,499) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sir Francis Wyatt Circle (\$100-249) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sherwood Anderson Circle (\$2,500-4,999) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Johnston Circle (\$250-499) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ellen Glasgow Circle (\$5,000-9,999) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clementina Rind Circle (\$500-999) | <input type="checkbox"/> Douglas Southall Freeman Circle (\$10,000+) |

Mr. | Ms. | Miss | Mrs. | Mr. & Mrs. | Other _____

Name (print name as it will appear in membership listing) E-mail Address

Address City State Zip

Office Phone Home Phone

Please include me in special interest mailings on: Map/Cartography Events Literary Events

PAYMENT OPTIONS: Check (made payable to The Library of Virginia Foundation) or Visa/Mastercard/American Express/Discover (please circle)

Name (as it appears on card) Credit Card Account Number Exp. Date Gift Amount

If you or your spouse work for a matching-gift company, please send your company's form with your contribution. For additional information, call 804.692.3900.



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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SPOTLIGHT

SMILE FOR THE CAMERA

These mid-20th-century commercial studio images by Ashland photographer Fairfax Davis are just a few of the thousands in the Library of Virginia's collection. For more information about our photography studio collections, contact Dale Neighbors (804.692.3711 or dale.neighbors@lva.virginia.gov).

Posed for Posterity

From the mid-19th to the mid-20th centuries, there was hardly a town in Virginia of more than 3,000 people that didn't have a local commercial photography studio. The Library of Virginia is fortunate to have a wide array of such collections from this underappreciated aspect of American photography.

The Fairfax Davis/Ashland Camera Shop Collection, recently added to the Prints and Photographs Collection, constitutes one such unique photographic record. The collection consists of approximately 3,000 negatives from 1946 to 1958 from the commercial studio of Fairfax Davis. Born in Houston, Texas, "Fax" Davis settled in Hanover County, Virginia, in 1920. After serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps

Commercial photography studio collections document social customs

during World War II, he returned to Ashland and with the help of his wife, Katherine Davis, opened the Ashland Camera and Jewelry Shop. The studio covered all aspects of life in Hanover County, capturing weddings, school graduation portraits, local business openings, sports events, and even murder investigations and postmortem portraits taken at local funeral homes. The images in the collection portray a combination of aspiration and reality, but they also offer surprising, humorous, and often poignant revelations of social customs from post-World War II Virginia.

—Dale Neighbors, Prints and Photographs Collection Coordinator